

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 12: CONSERVATION**  
**Chapter 201-A: GEOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**§544-N. PROHIBITED ACTS**

**1. Defacing or damaging cave prohibited.** A person may not deface or damage a cave. A person defaces or damages a cave if the person, without the prior written permission of the owner:

A. Breaks, breaks off, cracks, carves upon, writes or otherwise marks upon or in any manner destroys, mutilates, injures, defaces, removes, displaces, mars or harms any natural material found in a cave; [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

B. Kills, harms or disturbs plant or animal life found in a cave, except for safety reasons; [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

C. Disturbs or alters the natural condition of a cave or takes into a cave any aerosol or other container containing paints, dyes or other coloring agents; [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

D. Stores, dumps, litters, disposes of or otherwise places any refuse, garbage, dead animal, sewage or toxic substance harmful to cave life or humans in a cave; [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

E. Burns within a cave any material that produces smoke or gas that is harmful to any organism in the cave; or [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

F. Breaks, forces, tampers with, removes or otherwise disturbs a lock, gate, door, sign or other structure or obstruction designed to prevent entrance to a cave, whether or not entrance is gained. [2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).]

[ 2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW) .]

**2. Forfeiture.** A person who violates the provisions of this subchapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 may be adjudged.

[ 2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW) .]

**3. Damages may be collected by landowner.** A person who intentionally defaces or damages a cave on private land in violation of subsection 1 is liable to the owner of that land for actual damages recoverable through a civil action.

[ 2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW) .]

**SECTION HISTORY**

2001, c. 113, §1 (NEW).

---

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature and is current through August 1, 2014. The text is subject to*

*change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.
--